



## The Alberta Fish & Game Association

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **The Alberta Fish and Game Association Questions Proposed Métis Harvesting Agreement: Survey Shows Albertans Share Concerns**

(Edmonton, March 29, 2005) The Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) opposes the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement issued by the Alberta Government in September 2004.

The agreement gives unlimited rights to members of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association to “hunt, trap or fish at all seasons of the year.” Though it states the purpose is for “subsistence purposes,” the agreement does not define the term nor does it impose any limits on the quantities of fish or game harvested.

“We are concerned that this agreement opens the doors to the unregulated harvesting of Alberta’s wildlife,” says AFGA President Randy Collins. “We have concerns when any one is given the right to take unlimited quantities of fish or game, or to disregard seasonal restrictions which are in place to ensure their long-term survival.”

It appears other Albertans share AFGA’s concern. In a recent survey conducted by Criterion Research, 77% of the 800 people polled expressed concerns about the long-term effects of allowing unlimited, year round fishing and hunting by Métis people in Alberta.

Mr. Collins added, “Our concern is for the wildlife, which is already threatened by human population and industry growth impacting their habitat. “

Of those surveyed, 60% of respondents were opposed to there being any year round fishing and hunting rights for Métis people.

The Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement was put in place by the Alberta government without consultation with Albertans, other than the Métis Nation of Alberta. AFGA believes individuals and organizations dedicated to conservation and protection of wildlife should be consulted before a long-term agreement is put in place. **Survey respondents agreed; 91% said there should be a broader consultation with Albertans.**

“The Alberta Fish and Game Association has a strong directive from its 14,000-plus members to support and practice conservation.” said Collins. “We believe that all Albertans have the responsibility to protect and conserve the wildlife in this province. Our members respect and support the conservation laws now in place. We know they are there to ensure a wildlife legacy for tomorrow.”

For further information on AFGA’s position on the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement. go to [www.afga.org](http://www.afga.org).

The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that has been active in habitat conservation since 1908 and has a province-wide membership of well over 14,000 individuals keen on maintaining Alberta’s natural heritage.

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